these aircraft would be approximately Rs. 9000 crores phased over a five year period.

Government of India has decided in principle to release Rs. 325 crores as equity infusion in Indian Airlines in the form of margin money for acquisition of new aircraft. The remaining cost is to be met by the Company through internal resources and external commercial borrowings.

Indian Airlines has now been advised to formulate a specific proposal for acquisition of these aircraft for Government's approval. No time frame can, however, be indicated at this stage for induction of these aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines.

New legislation for airport security

906. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that airport security in the country has gone overboard in the wake of recent spurt in the terrorist activities throughout the world;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to make aviation security rules more stringent to ensure greater safety in the journeys;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a new law is under consideration for arming the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security with greater powers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when new legislation is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Security arrangements at airports are reviewed according to threat perception. After the recent terrorist attacks in other countries, the following measures have been taken, *inter alia*, to further strengthen security at the airports in order to prevent hijackings and other unlawful interference with civil aviation operations:—

(i) Deployment of Sky Marshals on all routes of scheduled domestic airlines on random basis;

(ii) Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at all operational airports in a timebound manner;

(iii) Deployment of Quick Reaction Teams at major airports; and

(iv) Strict access control and screening of passengers and their baggage, including at ladder point.

(c) and (d) Action is in hand for working out the details of a new Civil Aviation Security Act.

Misutilization of complimentary passes

907. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have freezed all the complimentary passes issued by Government Airlines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these passes have been misutilized by these beneficiaries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken for the recovery of the amount causing loss to Government exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Both, Air India and Indian Airlines have stopped issuing complimentary passes. This is, however, not applicable to the normal sales promotion schemes etc. of Air India and Indian Airlines.

(b) No such instances of misutilization have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Handling of airport security by CISF

908. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'Times of India' dated 18th September, 2001, captioned "CISF ill-equipped to handle airport security", and